

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, May 14, 2002 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Richard Bento, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Larry Englisher, Alan McClennen, Lt. Jim McHugh, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Administrative Items

The minutes of the 4/9 meeting were approved unanimously.

After some discussion, we agreed that beginning with meetings in July, the third Wednesday of the month would be the best meeting date. Accordingly, future TAC meetings are now scheduled as follows:

Tuesday 6/11 Town Hall Annex, first floor

Wednesdays, 7/17, 8/21, 9/18, 10/16, 11/20, 12/18, location to be determined

Ed reminded TAC members to visit the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in if they have not done so already.

News

From Rich Bento: Crosswalk painting is continuing as weather permits. Summer Street reconstruction is delayed to 2003 or later.

From Elisabeth Carr-Jones: The report on Arlington's Safe Routes to Schools program is now available.

From Larry Englisher: He has a paper copy of the Cambridge Pedestrian Plan, and offered to make copies for other committee members.

From Scott Smith: The new Minuteman Bikeway brochures are now available. The Bike Arlington Tour on 5/5 was a great success. Warrant Article 7 for bike parking in new developments failed to obtain the needed 2/3 vote in Town Meeting.

Cleveland / Magnolia Street follow-up

Follow-up items for TAC include options to address commuter parking, nighttime trucking on Route 16, and traffic calming. Ed Starr will be talking with Charles Lyons about setting up a meeting with the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), where route 16 may be discussed. Elisabeth reported on her discussion with Richard Maimone, director of fire services. He is concerned about the ability of emergency vehicles to access the narrow streets in this area. Scott Smith reported that Rona Logue indicated that some residents of Magnolia Street were not happy with the overnight parking enforcement.

Luisa Paiewonsky presentation

Ed Starr reported that Jack Hurd would be taking the lead for publicity on this presentation, which will be in the Selectmen's meeting room. One possible topic is State/ Town roles in transportation, and how they interact.

Jason / Brantwood

Ed Starr reported on the meeting with Jason Street residents. At this meeting, two residents expressed their belief that the Board of Selectmen did approve a crosswalk at Jason / Norfolk. We believe their recollection is correct. Rich noted that this location would need wheelchair ramps to be cut. The pedestrian warning sign (PWS) at Jason / Brantwood seems to be extremely successful. Jason Street residents had also asked for a PWS at the existing crosswalk at Jason/Irving.

After some discussion (where, among other things, it was noted that the cost of the PWS is about \$300), we unanimously agreed that the next step would be to develop criteria for the use of these signs. Rich Bento will speak with Charlie Crevo.

Traffic counts will also be taking place in the area near the Spring Street access to Route 2.

Alan McClenen arrived at the end of this discussion, at 8 PM.

Status of Warrant Article

Ed Starr noted that with the passage of Warrant Article 25, \$25,000 has been assigned for transportation issues so far. Town Meeting is now adjourned, until the State has a budget. He will prepare a handout and presentation on the Warrant Article to use when Town Meeting reconvenes.

Massachusetts Avenue Corridor

Scott Smith reported on plans for additional public involvement with the corridor work.

Scott and Rich Bento both said that the long-term phases of the project should be articulated, similar to the following:

0. Items that can be implemented immediately (e.g. pedestrian warning signs at the crosswalks)
1. Items that can be implemented for the cost of paint. These include lane markings, temporary bollards and possibly signal re-timings
2. Items that involve substantial expense. These include bumpouts, refuge islands, new signals.

Our immediate concern is with Phases 0 and 1 (since no money is available for Phase 2). Louis Berger had sent a rough cost / scope estimate for Phase 2 to Rich Bento. Rich will forward that to Scott.

Alan McClenen suggested that the project (through Phase 2) be submitted to the Capital Planning budget this summer.

Members of the committee agreed that it was appropriate and necessary to have Town representation (either Rich, Alan or Jim) at the upcoming public meetings.

Alan McClenen departed after this discussion, at about 9 PM.

Alternative Transportation Day

Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported on Kevin Greeley's suggestions for a town day supporting alternative transportation. Scott reported that Cambridge is in the midst of an alternative transportation week, with many activities.

Traffic Calming

Rich Bento handed out a number of items on what other communities are doing for traffic calming. There seem to be approximately four levels of complexity / expense:

1. Paint / bollards
2. Speed humps
3. Raised intersections
4. Major geometry changes

Rich does not want to do anything that has not been tested. He noted that unlike other states (such as Florida), there has been little state support in Massachusetts for traffic calming guidelines. Therefore, each community has to figure things out on its own. Larry Englisher suggested that a mini-conference be held to exchange information among local communities.

Measurement Program

Jim McHugh reported that the town now has 4 counters, and that counts had recently been done on Brooks/Chandler. Scott Smith noted that according to federal guidelines, 48-hour counts should be sufficient.

Co-op Student

Larry Englisher reported that co-op students are assigned on either 3 month or 6-month assignments, with the 6-month assignment beginning in July of each year. (This schedule may change next year.) We agreed that Larry and Rich Bento should start the interview process for a 6-month assignment, with the student to join us in late June/early July. Meanwhile Ed Starr and Alan McClenen will check on funding options.

Processes

Ed Starr reported that the revised Assessment Study was at the printers, and that we should be expecting an electronic copy soon. We agreed that (a) a policy statement for transportation by the Board of Selectmen would be helpful, and (b) setting an hour aside at some future meeting to talk about process (what went well, what could go better) would be appropriate

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM

Handouts:

Agenda packet including agenda, meeting date options, excerpts from the open meeting law, follow-up items for Cleveland and Magnolia streets, and notes from the meeting with the Jason Street neighborhood. – from Ed Starr

Safe Routes to Schools Report – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones

Draft plan and list of issues for continued Mass Ave. Corridor work – from Scott Smith

Minutes from 4/9/02 – from Scott Smith

Co-op Student Tasks – from Larry Englisher

Traffic calming items, including PTI community guide to traffic calming, speed hump and table criteria from walkinginfo.org, reflector devices/plastic speed bumps, Hampton VA presentation, crosswalk lighting system, Portland, OR pedestrian design guide and crosswalk guidelines, Arlington VA report – from Rich Bento